

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG  
ALL NATO CAPITALS  
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 03595

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL NATO DPC  
SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, MAY 17, 1977: AGENDA  
ITEM VI, INFRASTRUCTURE CEILING INCREASE

REF: DPC/D(77)9 (REVISED)

SUMMARY. ITALY AND BELGIUM JOINED DENMARK IN AGREEING  
TO A CEILING INCREASE OF IAU 140 MILLION. SYG LUNS  
HANDLED THE DECISION AS NOT QUITE FINAL AND SUGGESTED  
REFERRAL TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE FOR IMMEDIATE  
DISCUSSION, WHICH WAS AGREED. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER A BRIEF INTRODUCTION BY SYG LUNS IN WHICH HE  
REAFFIRMED THE URGENCY OF A DECISION AND AFTER A SHORT  
STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE (GENERAL  
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ZEINER GUNDERSEN), RESTATING THE MILITARY NEED FOR IAU  
241 MILLION, SYG CALLED ON LATTANZIO (ITALY).

2. LATTANZIO REMINDED MINISTERS OF ITALY'S CURRENT  
ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND THE SEVERE RESTRAINTS ON  
THEIR "ABILITY TO OPERATE INTERNATIONALLY". HE SAID  
THAT NEVERTHELESS, THE GOI COULD ACCEPT THE FIGURE OF

IAU 140 MILLION INITIALLY PROPOSED BY DENMARK. HE SAID HE HOPED THE ALLIANCE WOULD APPRECIATE THIS STEP WHICH DEMONSTRATED THE POLITICAL WILL OF HIS COUNTRY. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN INDICATED BY ITALY IN THE FIELD OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOPED THAT THESE WOULD RECEIVE DUE CONSIDERATION.

3. VANDEN BOEYNANTS (BELGIUM) SAID THAT AFTER REVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THAT IAU 140 MILLION COULD MEET IMMEDIATE INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS. HE WAS THUS IN A POSITION TO AGREE TO THE IAU 140 MILLION FIGURE PROPOSED BY THE DANES, BUT IF THE MAJORITY WERE STILL PRESSING FOR A FIGURE OF IAU 241 MILLION, HE WOULD NEED MORE TIME TO NEGOTIATE WITHIN THE NEW BELGIAN CABINET.

4. SYG LUNS, HOLDING THE ISSUE OPEN, AS WE EXPECTED HE WOULD, CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR MINISTERS TO TAKE A FINAL DECISION, AND THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE QUICKLY ADDRESSED IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE (UNDER ASYG LABERGE'S CHAIRMANSHIP) IN ORDER "TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE", I.E., TO TRY FOR A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE IAU 241 AND 140 MILLION. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE MATTER COULD BE FINALIZED WITHOUT MUCH FURTHER DELAY. LABERGE AGREED TO ADDRESS THIS AT AN INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 24 MAY 77.

5. MISSION COMMENT: WE BEGAN TO GET INDICATIONS OF ITALIAN AND BELGIAN AGREEMENT ABOUT 24 HOURS BEFORE  
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THE FACT, ALTHOUGH IT REMAINED UNCLEAR WHAT THE EXACT SEQUENCE OF EVENTS MIGHT BE. WE WERE CONCERNED AT THE POSSIBILITY, INDICATED INFORMALLY BY THE FRG DELEGATION, THAT MOD LEBER MIGHT RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE UNITED STATES SPECIAL PROGRAM (USSP) IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CEILING INCREASE. THIS MAY STILL HAPPEN IN INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, ALTHOUGH THE UK AND CANADA ARE NOW PREPARED TO WITHDRAW THEIR INITIAL OBJECTIONS AND WE DOUBT THAT THE FRG WOULD LONG PERSIST IN ISOLATION ON THIS POINT. SINCE US BILATERAL PRESSURE UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCED THE ITALIAN AND BELGIAN DECISIONS, WE PLAN TO MAINTAIN A RELATIVELY LOW PROFILE IN FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. END COMMENT. BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

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